Assistance to families affected by fires in Kashmir valley

1415. SHRI SHABBIR AHMAD SALARIA Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that eleven thousand families have been rendered homeless in large scale fires during disturbances in Kashmir Valley; and

(b) whether Government would provide them with succour and shelter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY) (a) and (b) Information is awaited.

Firing by Pak Troops across the line of actual control

1416 SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) whether the Pakistani forces across the line of control in Machhal sub-sector of Jammu and Kashmir have resorted to mortar and artillery shelling besides rifles and machine gun fire on the Indian Posts and villages in the area on the 21st and 22nd September, 1990,

(b) if so, the number of persons killed or injured due to firing by Pak forces;

(c) whether the Indian forces have also repelled heavy firing,

(d) whether Government propose to discuss this issue with the Pakistan Government; and

(e) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI LALIT VIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) There had been exchange of fire, including use of mortar and heavy artillery, in the Machhal sub Sector on the 21st and 22nd September, 1990. The firing was perhaps an attempt to create a diversion and to pin down some of our forces while infiltration by armed militants could be attempted in nearby areas. It will not be desirable to discuss the details of casualties.

(d) and (e) Government had impressed upon Pakistan the need to contain these localised incidents and to defuse the situation.

Terrorists attacks on trains

1417. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA Will the PRIME MNISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the terrorists in Punjab have fired upon moving trains and blew up tracks during November, 1990,

(b) if so, the number of such incidents occurred in Punjab during the month of November, 1990;

(c) the estimated loss of railway property and number of railway employees and other persons killed or injured due to terrorists' attacks on trains during the said period; and

(d) the steps Government have taken or propose to take to provide safe journey to railway commuters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) According to information received from the Govt. of Punjab, 4 incidents of firing on running trains and 3 incidents of blowing up of rail tracks took place during the month of November, 1990

(c) According to the Ministry of Railways the loss of railway property is to the tune of Rs 7,400/- and no railway employee was killed or injured.

(d) State Government is taking necessary steps including anti-sabotage checks,